

What is claimed is:

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1. In combination, an outer cannula having a first port for orienting outside the neck of a wearer, a second port for orienting within the trachea of the wearer and a first passageway coupling the first port to the second port to permit the flow of gases from the first port to the second during inhalation by the wearer and from the second port during exhalation by the wearer, a third port between the first and second ports, and an inner cannula for insertion into the first passageway via the first port when the wearer desires to be able to exhale through the wearer's pharynx, the inner cannula including a fourth port for orienting adjacent the first port, a fifth port for orienting adjacent the second port and a second passageway coupling the fourth port to the fifth port to permit the flow of gases from the fourth port to the fifth during inhalation by the wearer and from the fifth port during exhalation by the wearer, a valve controlling flow through the third port, the valve assuming a first orientation to permit flow from the first port to the second port when the first port is at a higher pressure than the second port, and a second orientation to permit flow from the second port through the third port when the second port is at a higher pressure than the first port.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the valve includes a movable member and a seat, the movable member moving away from the seat to permit flow from the fourth port to the fifth port when the fourth port is at a higher pressure than the fifth port, and seating against the seat to impede flow from the fifth port through the fourth port and promote flow from the fifth port through the third port when the fourth port is at a lower pressure than the fifth port.
3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the seat is provided in the second passageway.
4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the seat is provided in the first passageway.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the valve includes a movable member and a seat, the movable member moving toward the seat to impede flow from the fourth port through the third port when the fourth port is at a higher pressure than

the fifth port, and moving away from the seat to permit flow from the fifth port through the third port when the fourth port is at a lower pressure than the fifth port.

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6. The apparatus of claim 2 including a second seat, the movable member moving toward the second seat to impede flow from the fourth port through the third port when the fourth port is at a higher pressure than the fifth port, and moving away from the second seat to permit flow from the fifth port through the third port when the fourth port is at a lower pressure than the fifth port.

7. The apparatus of claim 3 including a second seat, the movable member moving toward the second seat to impede flow from the fourth port through the third port when the fourth port is at a higher pressure than the fifth port, and moving away from the second seat to permit flow from the fifth port through the third port when the fourth port is at a lower pressure than the fifth port.

8. The apparatus of claim 4 including a second seat, the movable member moving toward the second seat to impede flow from the fourth port through the third port when the fourth port is at a higher pressure than the fifth port, and moving away from the second seat to permit flow from the fifth port through the third port when the fourth port is at a lower pressure than the fifth port.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the outer cannula includes an inflatable cuff between the second and third ports and a third passageway for introducing an inflating fluid into the cuff *in situ* in the trachea of the wearer to impede the flow of fluids between the cuff and the trachea when the cuff is inflated.

10. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the outer cannula includes an inflatable cuff between the second and third ports and a third passageway for introducing an inflating fluid into the cuff *in situ* in the trachea of the wearer to impede the flow of fluids between the cuff and the trachea when the cuff is inflated.

11. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the outer cannula includes an inflatable cuff between the second and third ports and a third passageway for introducing an inflating fluid into the cuff *in situ* in the trachea of the wearer to impede the flow of fluids between the cuff and the trachea when the cuff is inflated.

12. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the outer cannula includes an inflatable cuff between the second and third ports and a third passageway for

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introducing an inflating fluid into the cuff *in situ* in the trachea of the wearer to  
impede the flow of fluids between the cuff and the trachea when the cuff is inflated.

13. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the outer cannula includes an  
inflatable cuff between the second and third ports and a third passageway for  
5 introducing an inflating fluid into the cuff *in situ* in the trachea of the wearer to  
impede the flow of fluids between the cuff and the trachea when the cuff is inflated.

14. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the outer cannula includes an  
inflatable cuff between the second and third ports and a third passageway for  
introducing an inflating fluid into the cuff *in situ* in the trachea of the wearer to  
10 impede the flow of fluids between the cuff and the trachea when the cuff is inflated.

15. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the outer cannula includes an  
inflatable cuff between the second and third ports and a third passageway for  
introducing an inflating fluid into the cuff *in situ* in the trachea of the wearer to  
impede the flow of fluids between the cuff and the trachea when the cuff is inflated.

16. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the outer cannula includes an  
inflatable cuff between the second and third ports and a third passageway for  
introducing an inflating fluid into the cuff *in situ* in the trachea of the wearer to  
impede the flow of fluids between the cuff and the trachea when the cuff is inflated.

17. The apparatus of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,  
20 14, 15 or 16 wherein the outer cannula includes a flexible member for covering the  
third port.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the flexible member and the  
outer cannula including complementary first and second attachment members,  
respectively, for attaching the flexible member to the outer cannula, the second  
25 attachment member providing an attachment point located within the third port for  
attachment of the first attachment member to the second attachment member at the  
attachment point.

19. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the flexible member  
comprises a flexible membrane having a slit in it.

20. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the flexible member  
comprises a flap for covering the third port.

At cont'd  
21. The apparatus of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 further including a member selectively movable into interfering relationship to the valve, the member preventing the valve from moving to the second orientation.

5 22. A tracheotomy cannula having a first port for orienting outside the neck of a wearer, a second port for orienting within the trachea of the wearer and a first passageway between the first port and the second port to permit the flow of gases from the first port to the second during inhalation by the wearer and from the second port during exhalation by the wearer, the cannula including a portion formed from a  
10 thermoplastic material having a first, generally curved orientation when said portion is maintained substantially below body temperature and a second, somewhat inverted L-shaped configuration when said portion is warmed substantially to body temperature.

23. A tracheotomy cannula having a first port for orienting outside  
15 the neck of a wearer, a second port for orienting within the trachea of the wearer and a first passageway between the first port and the second port to permit the flow of gases from the first port to the second during inhalation by the wearer and from the second port during exhalation by the wearer, the cannula including a portion formed from a relatively more flexible material, and a stylet formed from a relatively less flexible  
20 material, the stylet having a generally curved orientation, the tracheotomy cannula having a somewhat inverted L-shaped configuration when the stylet is not inserted into the first passageway and a generally curved orientation when the stylet is inserted into the first passageway.

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